

October 14, 2015

Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination
And Legal Administration
Attn: Kim Collins, Paralegal
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20436

2015 OCT 19 AM 11:52
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
CELA

Dear Ms. Collins:

This response is being written to address the complaint that your agency has labeled MUR 6957.

Isadore Hall is a California State Senator who was recently elected to office at the end of 2014. His term of office is up for re-election in 2016. He is exploring running for The House of Representatives in the 2016 election. At the moment he has two campaign committees for election to office in 2016, one for his re-election to the California State Senate and the other for election to the House of Representatives. His committee established for a possible run for federal office was established as an "Exploratory Committee" and is so named, in order to assess which election he might decide to run for. He established this committee back in June of 2011. No determination is made as to which office he will be seeking until filing for the respective offices commences which is not until the beginning of 2016. In addition to these committees, Senator Hall has three other State of California committees that are open and functioning. He has a committee for his election to his previous office, the California State Assembly; he has a committee which was used for his election to the California State Senate in 2014; and he controls a Ballot Measure Committee in California which, while not supporting a specific ballot measure at the moment, is exploring issues related to the budget.

The complaint is solely based on Mr. Hall having filed Statements of Candidacy with the FEC (Form 2) for the 2016 and 2018 elections. It is our understanding that until Mr. Hall actually makes up his mind and files nomination papers to run for office he is not a candidate for such office. He is exploring that possibility, just as the Committee name indicates. If and when Mr. Hall makes a final determination to do so, then he will become a candidate and subject to regulation of his State ballot measure committee as a result of that candidacy. The name of his federal committee would then be changed to drop the words "Exploratory Committee." This point of no return has not yet occurred and as such we don't believe there can be a violation of FEC rules by Mr. Hall or the Ballot Measure committee as alleged in this complaint. The naming of the Exploratory Committee as a party to this complaint does not have any basis under the law as it did not receive the money that is the subject of the complaint.

If it should be determined that we have reached a point where FEC rules apply to the Ballot Measure committee, then we will immediately stop soliciting and accepting any funds that are not fully permissible under the Federal Elections Act and will promptly refund any funds received during the period deemed to be subject to the Act.

Sincerely,

David J. Gould, Treasurer
Inspiration and Hope Committee

Isadore Hall